GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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DeLoach
Evans
Gale
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Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: 3/12/64

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, 11/22/63 AT DALLAS, TEXAS

PURPOSE

To advise you of the results of the interview conducted by the President's Commission of Baltimore Agents James W. Sibert and Francis X. O'Neill, Jr., on 3/12/64, by Commission Staff Member Arlen Specter.

DETAILS

Mr. Arlen Specter conducted this interrogation as a joint interview of both Agents. He exhibited an extremely friendly attitude and expressed admiration for the job the FBI is doing in this investigation. It was not practicable to take notes, however, this is being set out from the recorded recollection of these Agents shortly after the termination of the interview. It will be noted that while Mr. Specter was questioning Agents he had before him at the time Dallas report dated 12/10/63 of SA Robert P. Gemberling which contained the interview report forms and other information submitted by the Agents being interviewed.

The following is an account of the interview in question and answer form.

Question: State exactly what you did on the night of November 22, 1963, and what your instructions were in connection with this incident?

Answer: We met the Presidential aircraft, accompanied the body in the motorcade and following arrival at the Navy Medical Training Center, witnessed the autopsy. We were instructed solely and specifically to obtain any bullets which might have been in the President's body and take them to the FBI Laboratory. This was our purpose for being present at the autopsy.

Question: What position did you occupy in the motorcade?

Answer: We were seated in the third car of the motorcade.

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1 - Mr. I. W. Conrad
1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. O. H. Bartlett

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Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

Question: What was the time of the preparation for the autopsy at the hospital?

Answer: Approximately 7:17 p. m.

Question: What time did the autopsy begin?

Answer: Approximately 8:15 p. m.

Question: What time did the autopsy end?

Answer: We do not recall.

Question: Could it have been between 12:00 midnight and 1:00a. m. ?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What time did Lieutenant Colonel Finck arrive? (Finck is an Army medical doctor assigned to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.)

Answer: We do not recall, however, it was after the autopsy was in progress.

Question: What time did Agent Sibert call Agent Killian at the FBI Laboratory?

Answer: Some time between 11:00 p. m., and 12:00 midnight.

Question: Did you call Agent Killian prior to or after the wound was discovered in the President's back?

Answer: After this wound was discovered.

Question: Did you observe probing done by medical examiners using the finger in the back wound and by whom was the probing done?

Answer: Yes, probing done by Commander Hume.

Question: What was the reaction of the examiners upon being notified that a bullet had been found on a stretcher used at Dallas?

Answer: Commander Hume stated that this accounted for no bullet being located which had entered the back region and that it was entirely possible that the bullet had worked its way back out of the point of entry while cardiac massage was being performed at the Dallas hospital.

Question: Prior to SA Sibert's calling the FBI Laboratory did either Dr. Hume or Dr. Finck express an opinion as to whether the bullet wound in the back was a point of entry or a point of exit?

Answer: We can recall no such discussion.

Question: What was the size of the autopsy room?

Answer: We cannot state the dimensions of this room.

Question: Was it wider than this room?

Answer: It would appear to be.

Question: How close were you to the autopsy?

Answer: As close as necessary to observe the proceedings.

Question: I note that you delivered two pieces of metal to the FBI Laboratory removed from the President's body and that the chief pathologist advised that approximately forty particles and smudges were evident from X-rays.

Question: Were any additional particles removed?

Answer: Not to our knowledge. Only the two were removed in our presence by Dr. Hume and later placed in a small jar.

Question: Were you present at all times during the autopsy?

Answer: At all times one or both Agents were present in the autopsy room.

Question: Did you make any notes during the course of the evening?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Do you still have them?

Answer: No.

Question: What happened to them?

Answer: After dictating and comparing the dictation with the notes, they were destroyed.

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Question: I note that you spoke to Secret Service Agents Kellerman and Greer on the night of the autopsy, 11/22/63, and again on 11/27/63. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes, however, conversations with these Agents on the night of the autopsy were not formal interviews but remarks voluntarily made by these individuals and were subsequently recorded by us from recollection. The interviews conducted on 11/27/63 were formal interviews conducted at the Secret Service offices located in the White House.

Question: I notice that on 11/22/63, Mr. Kellerman stated that the President said, "Get me to a hospital." Is anything which is in quotation marks the exact words that Mr. Kellerman used on that night?

Answer: Yes.

Question: I also note that on 11/22/63, Agent Greer of the Secret Service is quoted as stating that he "floored" the limousine following the police escort to the hospital. Was "floored" his exact wording?

Answer: Yes.

Question: Did Greer and Kellerman appear to retain their composure on 11/22/63?

Answer: Yes.

Question: How long have you gentlemen been with the FBI?

Answer: Sibert almost 13 years and O'Neill approximately 10 years.

Question: I note that on the interview with Agent Kellerman conducted on 11/27/63, no mention is made of his remark that the President was overheard to say, "Get me to a hospital." Is it because he did not say so on the 27th?

Answer: Yes, however, it will be noted that Mr. Kellerman advised on 11/27/63 that he had had a chance since 11/22/63 to think and try to reconstruct the entire activities of that day and the statements which he furnished on 11/27/63 in a formal interview were his best recollection of the exact wording used.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont

This was the end of the formal question and answer interrogation. SA's Sibert and O'Neill advised that it was not possible under the circumstances to take notes and that they have attempted to reconstruct the questions and answers from best recollection.